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PRESS RELEASE

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Hazardous Smuggling Ruse Exposed

**AGENTS DISCOVER ELEVEN UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS CRAMMED INTO A
CONCEALED COMPARTMENT**

Temecula, California: Border Patrol agents, operating the Scissors Crossing Checkpoint in Shelter Valley discovered eleven undocumented aliens in a fabricated compartment. The hidden compartment, a rectangular wooden box, was built onto the bed of a 1975 Ford pickup truck and concealed underneath a few feet of crushed aluminum cans.

During an immigration inspection of the driver, who was riding alone in the cab area, agents noticed the overwhelming smell of human body odor emanating from the back of the truck. Agents searched the bed area, and after digging through a few feet of aluminum cans, discovered a hidden compartment. Agents pried off the rear wall of the compartment and discovered eleven individuals. Although the smuggler attempted to ventilate the compartment with a small fan, the migrants were found soaked in perspiration. The nine men and two women, all Mexican nationals, had been crammed into a confined area with limited ventilation. Agents immediately removed the individuals from the compartment and provided them with water to re-hydrate them.

The driver, a Mexican National illegally within the United States, is being held for criminal prosecution. Two of the eleven undocumented aliens are being held as material witnesses in the case and the remaining migrants were voluntarily returned to Mexico.

This is yet another example of the callous disregard alien smugglers have for the welfare of their human cargo. The U.S. Border Patrol, in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office, continues to aggressively pursue the prosecution of alien smugglers who jeopardize the lives of undocumented aliens. A criminal complaint charging the driver with alien smuggling (8 USC 1324) was filed this morning with the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Diego.

No further information is available at this time.